Claims

1. An adhesive tape, particularly for the bonding, to a metallic retaining bar or metal rail during the printing process, of printing blankets, **characterized** in that the adhesive tape (20) comprises at least one layer (25) comprising a release liner and, applied to one side of the latter, a pressure-sensitive hotmelt adhesive layer (30), the two sides of the release liner layer (25) exhibiting the same or different release.

2. The adhesive tape of claim 1, characterized in that the pressure-sensitive hotmelt adhesive (30) is a copolyamide.

3. The adhesive tape of one of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the pressure-sensitive hotmelt adhesive layer (30) has a thickness of at least 100 µm, preferably between about 120 and about 250 µm, more preferably between about 150 and about 200 µm.

4. The adhesive tape of one of claims 2 and 3, characterized in that the softening point of the copolyamide of the pressure-sensitive hotmelt adhesive layer (30) is between about 90°C and about 160°C, in particular between about 100°C and about 160°C.

5. The adhesive tape of one of claims 2 to 4, characterized in that the copolyamide is free from tack.

6. The adhesive tape of any one of the preceding claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the release

liner is temperature-stable up to at least 200°C, preferably up to at least 220°C.

7. The adhesive tape of one of the preceding claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the release liner has a weight of between about 80 g/m^2 and about 200 g/m^2.

8. The adhesive tape of one of the preceding claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the release liner layer (25, 25') has a thickness of between about 70 µm and about 150 µm.

9. The adhesive tape of one of the preceding claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the release liner comprises a backing material (40) furnished on both sides with a release liner layer.

10. The adhesive tape of claim 9, characterized in that the material of the release liner layer is based on silicone or fluorinated compounds, and in particular is a polydimethylsiloxane.

11. The adhesive tape of one of claims 9 and 10, characterized in that one side of the backing material (40) has a release liner layer (25, 25') with higher release than the release liner layer (25, 25') on the other side.

12. The adhesive tape of claim 11, characterized in that the two release liner layers (25, 25') with different release have a different material application rate.

13. The adhesive tape of one of claims 11 and 12, characterized in that the two release liner layers with different release have different chemical compositions.

14. The adhesive tape of one of claims 9 to 13, characterized in that the release liner layer joined to the pressure-sensitive hotmelt adhesive layer (30) has been pretreated, in particular corona-pretreated.

15. The adhesive tape of one of claims 9 to 14, characterized in that the release liner layer (25, 25') joined to the pressure-sensitive hotmelt adhesive layer (30) has a release force (i.e., release) of between about 0.5 and 3 cN/cm at room temperature and a release force of about 1 to 10 cN/cm following lamination at about 220°C.

16. The adhesive tape of one of claims 9 to 15, characterized in that the backing material (40) is a release paper (40').

17. The adhesive tape of one of claims 9 to 15, characterized in that the backing material (40) is a polymer backing (40"), composed in particular of polyimide, polyethylene naphthylate or polyethylene terephthalate.

18. The adhesive tape of claim 17, characterized in that the backing material (40) has a layer thickness of between about 6 and about 100 µm, in particular between about 12 and about 50 µm.

19. The adhesive tape of one of claims 9 to 18, characterized in that the release liner layers, depending on the nature of the backing material (40), have a material application rate of at least about 0.8 g/m^2 (backing material = release paper), or at least 0.5 g/m^2 (backing material = polymer backing), preferably 1.0 g/m^2.

20. A method of producing the adhesive tape of claims 1 to 19, characterized in that the pressure-

sensitive hotmelt adhesive is coated onto a corona-pretreated release paper by extrusion coating, with no air bubbles.

21. The use of an adhesive tape of one of claims 1 to 19 for bonding a printing blanket to a metallic retaining bar during a printing process.

22. A method of applying and of bonding adhesive tapes of an adhesive tape of one of claims 1 to 19 to a printing blanket (10) using a laminating apparatus, with the following worksteps:

a) introducing heat via the laminating apparatus and the release liner into the pressure-sensitive hotmelt adhesive layer,
b) exerting pressure on the adhesive tape via the laminating apparatus, the adhesive tape being pressed with its pressure-sensitive hotmelt adhesive layer onto the fabric side of the printing blanket,
c) guiding the laminating apparatus along the edge of the printing blanket, at the same time unwinding the adhesive tape.

22. The method of claim 21, characterized in that the laminating apparatus is a laminating roller or a laminating carriage.

23. The method of one of claims 21 and 22, characterized in that heat is introduced by heating the laminating apparatus.

24. The method of claim 23, characterized in that the laminating apparatus is heated to at least 180°C.

25. The method of one of claims 21 to 24, characterized in that the laminating speed is between about 1 and about 20 m/min.